Dolphin mobile subscribers

4989. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA :

SHRI SURESH KALMADI :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a gradual decrease in the number of dolphin mobile subscribers during the last two years;

(b) if so, the number of new subscribers connected with dolphin mobile services since January, 2003;

(c) the details of the subscription during the last three years, year-wise; and

(d) what steps Government propose to take to boost sale of dolphin mobile in the year 2003-04 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) The number of new Dolphin mobile service subscribers added during the period from January, 2003 to March, 2003 are as given below :

Delhi	3,610
Mumbai	47,659
Total	**51,269**

(c) The number of Cellular Mobile subscribers in MTNL during the last three years are as follows :

As on	Delhi	Mumbai
31.3.2001	9,452	8,032
31.3.2002	91,199	1,06,348
31.3.2003	1,29,417	1,59,500

(d) Following steps are planned to be taken by MTNL to further boost the sale of Dolphin Mobile in the year 2003-04.

(i) Entry Cost for getting new Dolphin connection has been reduced further by bringing down activation charges/security deposit.

(ii) New Value Added Services such as Wireless Access Protocol (WAP). Roaming to pre-paid subscribers in selected networks etc. are being added.

(iii) To improve the visibility and present of sales points, additional Posters, Glow sign boards, Danglers are being provided in the service areas of MTNL Cellular Mobile.

(iv) New Customer Service centers and bill collection centres are proposed to be opened to improve the access points for the Dolphin subscribers.

(v) More numbers of Base-Trans receivers Stations (BTSs) are being added in Delhi and Mumbai to further improve the RF coverage.

Failure of WLL in Orissa

4990. SHRI SURENDRA LATH : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the failure of Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) Service in providing telephone connections to the people in Orissa;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to make the WLL telephone service to the satisfaction of the customers in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. There had been partial interruption in Rural WLL service in Orissa. However, the telephone connections are provided based on demand and feasibility.

(b) The reasons for such interruption are :

(1) Damage to OFC media connecting the wireless equipment, due to expansion of National Highway.

(2) Fault occurrence in rural WLL equipment.

(3) Batteries of the fixed wireless terminal getting discharged early, due to prolonged power failure in rural areas.

(c) The following steps have been taken :

(1) Expeditious restoration of OFC Media, damaged due to expansion of National Highway.

(2) The supplier of rural WLL system has been awarded Post Warranty Annual Maintenance contract for 5 years as an integral part of the Purchase order.